INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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JOINT STATE/USIA MESSAGE

EMBTEL 1831.

WAGNER ATTITUDE TOWARDS SAUD VISIT CONTINUES SUBJECT NEWS AND COMMENTARY BEIRUT PRESS THOUGH ALL-OUT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECEPTION ALSO WIDELY COVERED. MOSLEM BEIRUT HEADLINED "JEWISH NEW YORK BOYCOTTS SAUD AGAINST WASHINGTON'S WISH" WHILE MARONITE AS SAHAFA SAYS "SAUD RECEIVED COOLY IN NEW YORK" SEVERAL PAPERS CARRY AP STORY QUOTING MEMBER KING'S ENTOURAGE AS SAYING SAUD WAS HURT BY WAGNER'S ATTITUDE BUT DECIDED OVERLOOK SINCE "PRIMARY PURPOSE OF VISIT IS TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WITH PRESIDENT EISENHOWER". MICHEL ABU JAUDEH WRITING IN PRO-WEST GREEK ORTHODOX AN NAHAR COMMENTS EDITORIALLY "BOYCOTT OF KING SAUD BY NEW YORK AUTHORITIES WAS MADE UNDER ZIONIST PRESSURE. IT WAS NATURAL. IN FACT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN STRANGE HAD NEW YORK AUTHORITIES GIVEN HEARTY WELCOME TO THE SAUDI KING. BUT ONE THING IS SURE: NEW YORK CITY'S ATTITUDE TOWARD KING SAUD 'BECAUSE HIS ANTI-JEWISH' WILL NOT (RPT NOT) MAKE HIM SYMPATHETIC TOWARD THE JEWS". TURNING TO DISCUSS A STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO WAGNER THAT SLAVERY STILL EXISTS IN SAUDI ARABIA, ABU JAUDEH SNAPPED: "THE MAYOR OF NEW YORK CAN REST ASSURED CONDITIONS OF SAUDI ARABIA SLAVES ARE FAR BETTER THAN THOSE OF MANY NEGROES IN MISSISSIPPI VALLEY".

UNPUBLISHED COMMENT HAS EMPHASIZED CONTRAST BETWEEN WAGNER'S ACTION AND ARAB HOSPITALITY WHICH ACCORDING TO TRADITION IS EXTENDED EVEN TO ENEMIES. THIS AFFRONT TO SAUD HAS TAKEN BLOOM OFF GENERALLY FAVORABLE REACTION TO WASHINGTON ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT AND IN MY OPINION WILL HAVE GENERALLY UNFAVORABLE EFFECT ON REALIZATION AXRICAN OBJECTIVES THIS AREA.

HEATH

JS

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